

CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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January's crop production forecast shows increases for some commodities when compared to estimates from last season's crops. The latest survey, which was conducted during the last week of December 1999 and the first week of January 2000, includes the following commodities:

Cotton - *American Pima cotton* production in California is forecast at 620,000 bales, up 76% from last year. This is based on 239,000 acres for harvest with an average yield of 1,245 pounds per acre. California's *Upland cotton* production is forecast at 1.575 million bales as of January 1, up 2% from the December forecast and up 37% from last year. This is based on 605,000 acres for harvest with an average yield of 1,250 pounds per acre. Harvest and second-picking in the San Joaquin Valley were complete by mid-December. Some growers even picked a third time in order to get the last few late-opening bolls. Weather conditions were ideal for virtually the entire harvest season.

Oranges - The 1999-2000 California *Navel orange* forecast is 80.0 million cartons, unchanged from October and up 90 percent over last season's freeze-damaged crop. Harvest of the Navel orange crop is progressing with approximately one-fifth of the crop picked by January 1. Quality is reported good, but the small size of the individual fruit is a concern to growers. Precipitation is well below normal to date and rain is needed to facilitate growth. The 1999-2000 California *Valencia orange* forecast is 54.0 million cartons, unchanged from October's forecast and up 59 percent from last season's crop. The new Valencia crop is maturing well with a good set reported. Picking should begin in the desert area in late February.

Lemons - The 1999-2000 California lemon forecast is 42.0 million cartons. This is up 30% from the 1998-99 production of 32.4 million cartons and up 2% from the October 1999 forecast of 41.0 million cartons. In the South Coastal growing region, volume of picks remains low at this time. Fruit quality remains good with few problems due to the grade or condition. In the Central Valley, quality has been fair to excellent with slight decay in some lots. In the desert area, pick volumes continue to be strong and quality is good. Statewide defects include windscar, tip injuries, and coarse texture.

Tangerines - The 1999-2000 California tangerine forecast is 4.60 million cartons. This is up 53% from last season's freeze damaged crop of 3.00 million cartons and unchanged from the October 1999 forecast. In the Central Valley, harvest of Satsuma tangerines is progressing well. In the desert growing region, Fairchild tangerines look very good. Fruit condition has been good, while color and eating quality have been excellent. Statewide defects include windscar and sunburn.

Grapefruit - The 1999-00 California grapefruit forecast is estimated at 16.0 million cartons. This is up 7% from the 1998-99 production and unchanged from the October forecast. Yield calculations remain at 964 cartons per acre. Temperatures have been slightly above normal with little to no rainfall. Fruit sizes are small and growth has been sluggish. However, fruit set is reported to be good.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. The next production forecast will be issued February 11, 2000.